jailer Is lord, and indicates the moment at which his distinguished prisoner shall die. Natural death Is the suicide of nature—In other words, the annihilation of the most rational being through the most Irrational element that is attached thereto. Only through religious illumination can the reverse appear; for then, as is equitable, the higher reason (God) Issues Its orders, which the lower reason has to obey. Outside religious thought natural death Is not worth glorifying. The wise dispensation and disposal of death belongs to that now quite Incomprehensible and immoral-sound ing morality of the future, the dawn of which it will be an ineffable delight to behold.

186.

RETROGRADE INFLUENCES.—All criminals force society back to earlier stages of culture than that In which they are placed for the time being. Their Influence Is retrograde. Let us consider the tools that society must forge and maintain for Its defence: the cunning detectives, the jailers, the hangmen. Nor should we forget the public counsel for prosecution and defence. Finally we may ask ourselves whether the judge himself and punishment and the whole legal procedure are not oppressive rather than elevating in their reaction upon all who are not law-breakers. For we shall never succeed in arraying self-defence and revenge in the garb of Innocence, and so long as men are used and sacrificed as a means to the end of society, all loftier humanity will deplore this necessity.